



# State Board of Education

## 2004 Legislative Priorities

### OUR MISSION

is to champion excellence in education  
through superior leadership and service.  
We are committed to high levels of learning, achievement and  
performance for all students,  
so they will become  
successful members of their community and the workforce.

## STUDENTS NEED MORE FUNDING

Adequate funding is THE top priority for school districts, AEAs, and community colleges. Iowa students should not face larger classes, fewer programs/course offerings, and higher tuition in FY05. The State Board of Education believes that Iowa cannot be committed to educational accountability unless it is also committed to building the capacity of the system to meet current needs.

### General Educational Funding:

- ▶ Address the need for increased revenues to support funding for education at all levels.

### K-12:

- ▶ At a minimum, maintain allowable growth at 2% for FY05, which includes restoring the 2.5% across-the-board reduction that occurred mid-year. Funding a 2% increase in per pupil foundation aid will still not benefit the two-thirds of Iowa districts with declining enrollment. Even in districts that receive funds for allowable growth, this funding is not adequate to offset increased expenses. Therefore, the Legislature should work to set a more substantial increase in funding for FY06.
- ▶ Renew Class Size/Early Intervention program for at least 4 years at the current level of \$30 million per year.
- ▶ Fund the Teacher Quality program at a level of \$48,525,000. This funding is necessary to maintain current compensation levels for beginning and career teachers, mentoring and induction program support, and funding for National Board teachers.
- ▶ Allocate \$20 million to support the two additional days of professional development requirement in the Teacher Quality legislation.

### Community Colleges:

- ▶ Provide funding support in terms of increases in Community College state general aid for FY05 comparable to the support for the K-12 system. Continued support and funding for Iowa's Community College system are necessary to create the skilled workforce for a vibrant Iowa economy.

- ▶ Increase the community college levy authority to provide increased capacity to support local and regional decision-making.

#### **AEAs:**

- ▶ Provide funding for AEAs that mirrors the support for K-12 and Community Colleges. AEAs provide essential services for children with disabilities and support for local school improvement efforts. Additional cuts to AEAs will severely impact the state's ability to provide the needed curriculum, instructional, and assessment assistance to LEAs for improved student achievement and support for teacher professional development as required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

## **STUDENTS NEED PRESCHOOL**

- ▶ Provide continued support for working toward quality universal preschools for all 3- and 4-year-olds. Dollars dedicated to Early Learning opportunities are Iowa's best long-term investment in reducing future costs for academic remediation, in building a quality workforce, and in supporting the quality of family life that Iowa values.

## **STUDENTS NEED TEACHERS**

- ▶ Maintain the minimum salary, mentoring and induction, professional development, and teacher evaluation components of the Teacher Quality legislation to support high student achievement. Research indicates that quality classroom instruction is the primary influence on student performance. The Teacher Quality policy requirements provide the basis for Iowa's ability to meet the demands of highly qualified teachers in federal NCLB legislation.

- ▶ Provide adequate resources to school districts to support the increased demand for higher student achievement for ALL students.

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